



Agenda Item No. _____

File Code No. 540.13

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: March 17, 2009

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing Submission Of A Grant Application For Stimulus Funds For Wastewater

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Authorizing the City Administrator to Submit a Financial Assistance Grant Application to the State of California Water Resources Control Board for the Planning, Design, and Construction of FOG (Fats, Oils and Grease) and Food Waste Biofuel Conversion and Headworks Screening Projects at El Estero.

BACKGROUND:

On February 11, 2009, the United States Congress approved a revised nationwide Federal Stimulus Bill package to stimulate the weakened economy by investing in public infrastructure improvements. Staff anticipated the stimulus program, and streets, water and wastewater identified projects that could be expedited for construction. The wastewater division economic stimulus package has separate application requirements than water and streets, such that wastewater grant applications are reviewed by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the application is unique to wastewater projects. The competition is high for limited resources at the State level. Staff selected two projects to be considered for grant funds based on environmental benefits and costs of construction. The application submittal requires Council to adopt the resolution herein.

Staff is proposing to submit the following projects for SWRCB grant funding:

- ☐ Headworks Screening Replacement Project at El Estero, which involves increased removal of large solids that will improve overall plant treatment efficiencies; and

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- ☐ Biogas/biomass conversion project at El Estero. The project is known as FOG (fats/food, oils, and grease) and uses brown grease and food scraps from restaurants for biofuel conversion to electricity.

Council recently awarded the design of the Headworks Screening Project and preliminary cost estimates identified the need for additional construction funding. Approximately \$1.7 million is available for this project. However, preliminary cost estimates for construction costs exceed \$4 million. Additionally, staff is in pre-design phase for the FOG project which includes evaluating feasibility and options for implementation.

It is recommended that Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City Administrator to execute the time sensitive wastewater grant application.

PREPARED BY: John Schoof, Wastewater System Manager

SUBMITTED BY: Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office